

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Partial Closure of Public Shellfish Fishery Area 41 and Closure of Public Shellfish Fishery Area 43 — Effective 10/1/2018

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.02.04.11E, announces a closure for two public shellfish fishery areas in Somerset County effective 12:01 am October 1, 2018. The portion of Public Shellfish Fishery Area 41 that lies within Somerset County and all of Public Shellfish Fishery Area 43 are closed to all shellfish harvest from 12:01 am October 1, 2018 through 11:59 pm October 31, 2018. The closure was requested by the Somerset County oyster committee due to concerns about the effects of fresh water on the oysters in those areas. The Department has agreed to the closure because low salinity slows oyster growth which could increase the possibility of undersized oysters being harvested. The opening of the areas is delayed so that the Department may assess the areas. The closed areas are described below. Public Shellfish Fishery Areas are described in "Public Shellfish Fishery Areas of the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries (November 2016)", which is incorporated by reference in COMAR 08.02.04.17.

For any questions or comments contact Chris Judy, Shellfish Division, at 443-223-0472.

The portion of Public Shellfish Fishery Area 41 that lies within Somerset County is located south of the channel. The following portion of PSFA 41 (NOB 29-6): Tangier Sound is closed and will be marked by buoys:

All of the waters of the area enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°11.438' N and Long. 75°57.149' W; then running 287° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°11.686' N and Long. 75°58.206' W; then running 49° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.412' N and Long. 75°57.159' W; then running 92° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.390' N and Long. 75°56.495' W; then running 103° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.362' N and Long. 75°56.341' W; then running 143° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°11.941' N and Long. 75°55.943' W; then running 242° True to the point of beginning.

PSFA 43 (NOB 29-8): Tangier Sound

All of the waters of the area enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°10.051' N and Long. 75°58.534' W; then running 9° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°11.686' N and Long. 75°58.206' W; then running 107° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°11.438' N and Long. 75°57.149' W; then running 206° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°10.140' N and Long. 75°57.944' W; then running 259° True to the point of beginning.

Mark Belton
Secretary of Natural Resources